

From: Bob Cantwell
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 1/23/02 10:06am
Subject: Microsoft Settlement

January 23, 2002

Attorney General John Ashcroft
US Department of Justice, 950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20530-0001

Dear Mr. Ashcroft:

I am writing to you to let you know that I endorse the Microsoft antitrust settlement agreement. The industry can only benefit from a quick resolution to this case. It is in the best interest of the public that Microsoft and the technology industry are allowed to get back to business as soon as possible.

I know and understand the terms of the settlement agreement to be fair, and I would state that they go beyond what should be expected of Microsoft. I am especially concerned about the proposed remedies that the nine 'hold out' states are looking for. The line has to be drawn somewhere with respect to IP rights, innovation and competition.

The restrictions Microsoft has agreed to will ensure there will be fair competition among the various software companies. In the interest of resolving this suit, Microsoft has agreed not to exercise its intellectual property rights; to make its code available to its competitors; and to not retaliate in any way against those who promote software that competes with Windows.

Microsoft's business practices will dramatically change, with the approval of this agreement. The playing field will be leveled to the point of favoring Microsoft's competitors, and they will be given greater opportunity to compete with Microsoft's Windows operating system. Innovation will be negatively impacted if the lawsuit is allowed to continue. The settlement agreement will allow the industry to continue growing in an unfettered, competitive market place that moves too quickly for any legal proceeding.

I know there will be no silver bullet in these matters, but with diligence and fairness, the technology industry, specifically the PC industry should be allowed to help the economy prosper through hard work, determination, healthy (tough) competition and the synergy's that standards provide. Perhaps the government should be more involved in the internet standards bodies, where no one knows what decisions are being made that will greatly impact the direction of the Internet and related business. Lastly, I always

hear about consumer choice and how important it is, but as a consumer, I do not want to see the other extreme, where I have to choose every little component of my Computer. People who purchase large ticket items want as much out of the box as possible, so in the spirit of 'Equal Access' vis a vis AT&T divestiture, I would think that including competitive software (Real Player, AOL client, etc.) within Windows shipped from the hardware manufacturers is a fair remedy, compared to breaking up Windows into multiple components and creating confusion and discordance in the industry.

Many thanks for taking the time to read my comments.

Sincerely,

Robert Cantwell, Jr.
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CC: Senator Rick Santorum (PA)

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